

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
PLAYERS' CONCUSSION INJURY LITIGATION

No. 2:12-md-02323-AB
MDL No. 2323

Kevin Turner and Shawn Wooden, on behalf
of themselves and others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

National Football League and NFL Properties, LLC,
successor-in-interest to NFL Properties, Inc.,

Defendants.

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

John D. Giddens, P.A. v. Lila Dunn
Attorney Lien Dispute
(Doc. No. 7081)

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

DAVID R. STRAWBRIDGE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

April 24, 2019

Before the Court for Report and Recommendation is a Notice of Attorney's Lien ("Lien") seeking attorney's fees and costs from any Monetary Claim to be paid to Settlement Class Member Lila Dunn, which was filed on January 13, 2017 by John D. Giddens P.A. and Philip W. Thomas, P.A. (collectively, "Giddens"). (Doc. No. 7081). On February 7, 2018, the Claims Administrator issued a Notice of Lien concerning the potential monetary award to Perry L. Dunn, Ms. Dunn's husband and a retired NFL Football Player. On August 9, 2018, the Claims Administrator issued a Notice of Monetary Award Claim Determination to Mr. Dunn. Unfortunately, Mr. Dunn passed away on October 27, 2018. On January 14, 2019, Ms. Dunn became the representative claimant regarding this award.

The District Court referred all Petitions for individual attorney's liens to this Magistrate Judge. (Doc. No. 7746). Rules Governing Attorneys' Liens ("Rules") were adopted on March 6, 2018 and amended on October 3, 2018. (Doc. Nos. 9760 and 10283). As set out in these rules, the Claims Administrator has referred the Lien Dispute and the Withdrawal to me for Report and Recommendation.

The Parties submitted a Withdrawal of Attorney's Lien Dispute (the "Withdrawal") pursuant to Rule 24 on April 10 and 14, 2019. The signed agreement clearly indicates the amount of the Award that Giddens will receive as its fee and sets forth an agreement as to how to disburse any portion of the 5% holdback that may be released in the future. Upon review of the Withdrawal and the contingency fee agreement, and in consideration of the Presumptive Fee Cap (Doc. No. 9863), we conclude that the fee to be paid to Giddens is reasonable, does not exceed the percentage for which the parties contracted, and that the fee is within the percentage allowed under the 22% Presumptive Fee Cap. Accordingly, we conclude that the Withdrawal should be granted and that the Claims Administrator should be ordered to distribute the attorneys' fees to Giddens and distribute the remaining funds to Ms. Dunn as set forth in the Withdrawal.¹

¹ Pursuant to the Court's Order Regarding Withholdings for Common Benefit Fund (Doc. No. 10104), 5% of the Award is currently being held in the Attorney's Fees Qualified Settlement Fund, where it must remain until further order of the Court. The Claims Administrator will ensure that if any portion of those funds are later released they will be paid pursuant to the agreed terms in the Withdrawal.

RECOMMENDATION

AND NOW, this 24th day of April, 2019, it is respectfully **RECOMMENDED** that the withdrawal of lien dispute be **GRANTED** and the Claims Administrator be ordered to distribute the funds withheld for attorneys' fees as is set forth in the Withdrawal submitted by the Parties.

The Parties may file objections to this Report and Recommendation. *See* Rule 25(d).

BY THE COURT:

/s/ David R. Strawbridge, USMJ
DAVID R. STRAWBRIDGE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
PLAYERS' CONCUSSION INJURY
LITIGATION

No. 2:12-md-02323-AB
MDL No. 2323

Kevin Turner and Shawn Wooden, on behalf
of themselves and others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

V.

National Football League and NFL
Properties, LLC, successor-in-interest to NFL
Properties, Inc.,

Defendants.

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

John D. Giddens, P.A. v. Lila Dunn
Attorney Lien Dispute
(Doc. No. 7081)

ORDER

AND NOW, this _____ day of _____, 2019, upon consideration of the Report and Recommendation of United States Magistrate Judge David R. Strawbridge (ECF No. _____), and no objection having been docketed, it is **ORDERED** that:

1. The Report and Recommendation is **ADOPTED**;
2. The Withdrawal of the Lien Dispute is **GRANTED**; and
3. The Claims Administrator is **ORDERED** to disburse the withheld funds in accordance with this decision, the provisions of the Settlement Agreement, and all Court Orders regarding implementation.

BY THE COURT:

ANITA B. BRODY, J.